CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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NOTE VERBALE DATED 15 SEPTEMBER 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF ECUADOR ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE RELEVANT PARAGRAPHS CONTAINED IN THE DECLARATION MADE BY THE NINTH SUMMIT MEETING OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE RIO GROUP, ADOPTED IN QUITO ON 5 SEPTEMBER 1995

The Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the European Office of the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to Ambassador Mohamed Nacer Benjelloun-Touimi, President of the Conference on Disarmament, and in its capacity as Coordinator of the Troika of the Rio Group has the honour to attach the relevant paragraphs concerning disarmament contained in the Declaration made by the ninth summit meeting of heads of State and Government of the Rio Group, adopted in Quito on 5 September 1995.

The Permanent Mission of Ecuador requests the President of the Conference on Disarmament to arrange for this communication to be included among the official documents of the Conference.

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As leaders of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, the first nuclear-weapon-free zone, we place on record our profound concern at and rejection of the resumption of nuclear tests by the People's Republic of China and the decision of the French Government to resume testing in the Pacific, a geographical area of which the majority of the member countries of the Rio Group form part. In view of the fact that these actions affect the environment for the pursuit of the negotiations on the comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty, we urgently call on the Governments of all States that possess this type of weapon to suspend all nuclear testing through unilateral or agreed moratoriums, in order to speed up the negotiation of a multilateral, effectively verifiable treaty for the complete prohibition of nuclear tests.

We endorse the decision taken by the Council of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) to hold a meeting with the members of the Consultative Committee of the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Rarotonga) for the purpose of agreeing on a joint strategy to secure the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly at its fiftieth regular session of an immediate moratorium on all nuclear tests.

We urge those countries that have not yet done so to promptly sign and ratify the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction. We have decided to work together for the strengthening of the biological weapons Convention through the adoption of appropriate measures. We also express our willingness to cooperate in promoting transparency in international arms transfers and in defence expenditure and defence budgets.